

Town on Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday April 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ned Bixler, James Korner, Scott Tillmann, Allan Walker, Robert Valentine, Russell Murdock, Pat Reilly, and Todd Carusillo first selectman.

Others: Fire Chief Barry Hall, William Gelormino President of the Goshen Fire Company, Garret Harlow Supervisor of the Department of Public Works, Erin Reilly Recreation Director, Nanci Harlow Recreation Department.

BUDGET REVIEW - FIRE PROTECTION - DEPARTMENT 26

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 111,595.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 122,395.00

The increase is due to Building Maintenance - Increased cost for small repairs/equipment needed.

Electricity appears overestimated and will be reduced to 2022-2023 number, \$10,533.00.

Fire department wages can be reduced by \$861.00 in lieu of the grant writer who will support the Fire Company in obtaining grants for unbudgeted projects.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REQUESTS 2023-2024. Total request is \$ 341,000.00.

Bill Lane noted he will recuse himself from the budget vote for the fire commissioners to prevent any conflict of interest. Bill Lane also noted the increase in calls to the Fire Department reporting the historical average as 300-325 per year and in 2021-2022 it was 413, and so far in this year it is 345. Bill Lane discussed the rapidly increasing costs of fire equipment as the reason behind the increase for the Fire Truck Replacement fund to be raised to \$150,000 from \$90,000.

Todd Carusillo suggested that increasing the replacement time for the fire truck from 10 years to 15 years will help with rising costs. It was stated that the newest truck in Goshen is 10 years old.

It was discussed that surrounding towns have spent approximately \$650,000 per new fire truck while Goshen has spent \$1 million. Barry Hall said that Goshen has to carry water and has a \$100,000 CAF system. (CAFS Compressed Air Foam Systems units that reduce knockdown times and create virtually no runoff or water damage.)

There is currently a \$468,000 balance in Fire Department Operations. Todd noted that last year \$22,000 was allocated for the Ambulance and this year's budget request is \$40,000. Bob Valentine noted that ARPA funds of \$128,000 were received for the ambulance bringing the fund balance to \$214,000.

Building expansion at \$7500 will not be needed, as the town will purchase land on Sharon Turnpike Assessors Map 06-008-076.

Barry mentioned turnout gear, (personal protective equipment used by firefighters) has a lifespan of 10 years and each kit is expected to cost \$3500. \$ 10,000 was requested.

The New Equipment – Medical fund request for \$25,000 is for new ambulance power stretchers to replace those that are currently 13 years old.

Discussion was had on reducing the overall budget by reducing the capital expenditures.

Scott Tillmann stated that lesser ambulances are difficult to work in and that hurts morale. Scott noted that the Fire Committee went to the Board of Finance for the Fire Truck and the Fire Company explained to the Board what was needed and why. \$20,000 for building improvements (Building Maint-Exterior Projects) has been delayed for years and that hurts morale and the ability to attract new members.

Barry stated that in the past 18 years the fire company has spent \$270,000 funded directly by the Fire Company. Ned reminds the board that the Fire Company is volunteer, and morale is important to have a working service.

Barry Hall agrees to cut additional items from the capital requests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jim Korner, seconded by Ned Bixler to approve the corrected minutes of March 22, 2023. With Bill Lane abstaining, the vote unanimously was carried. Corrections are as follows:

Russell Murdock has attended all past meetings but was not recorded as such. Paul Collins was incorrectly noted as Pat Collins and Cindy Barret was incorrectly noted as Cindy Parret.

Clarification: The Nickels for Nips funds is a separate non-lapsing account. The monies paid by liquor distributors are received into the fund and are used to offset the cost of composting bins for residents.

SUSPENSE REPORT. Received and reviewed the recommendations of April 12, 2023, by Rebecca Juchert-Derungs to transfer uncollectible uncollected property taxes to the suspense tax book. Bob Valentine motioned to accept the suspense report and Jim Korner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Received and reviewed Financial Reports from Debbie Franklin of March 31, 2023.

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT: Received and reviewed The Tax Collector's report of March 31, 2023.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT

The land sellers of Sharon Turnpike Assessors Map 06-008-076 would like to close in May. Bob Valentine motions to approve the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance. It was seconded by Jim Korner. The vote was all in favor.

The Broad band task force is requesting \$1500.00 for the setup fee for the Wi-Fi equipment for Camp Cochipianee. Bob Valentine noted that there is \$17,950.91 available in the Camp Cochipianee Facility Projects fund, while Erin Reilly Recreation director said she understood that this would be a shared town expense. This item will be further reviewed between the Recreation Department and the First Selectman.

The budget proposals to date would equate to a 12.9% increase over 2021-2022. Todd suggests reducing the budgets and capital requests to arrive at a 6.5% increase.

Bob Valentine suggests another meeting to review the revised budgets. Bill Lane says there is a Fire Commission meeting on May 3, and they will discuss possible reductions.

Allan Walker made a motion to have a Special meeting on May 10th and it was seconded by Ned Bixler. The agenda will be for the Consideration of 2023-2024 Budgets.

BUDGET PROPOSAL REVIEW

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATING BUDGET • DEPARTMENT 02

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 468,973.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 485,340.20

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REQUESTS 2023-2024 for Total Public Works - 654,000.00

Todd agrees that the Equipment Replacement \$ 100,000.00 that was for a backhoe can be removed as it is most often used for truck loading. Reductions will be made in Chip seal by \$50,000.00, \$25,000 from P.W. Facility Complex and \$2,000 from equipment repair. There is \$65,899.95 available currently in P.W. Facility Complex.

Town Aid Road fund to be adjusted as it currently has over \$700,000 with \$170,000/\$180,000 to be added in next year. Scott Tillman noted that due to the 10 year plan, the roads have been improving and it needs to be maintained.

Regarding the memo of April 11, 2023, from The Town Clerk, Barbara Breor, requesting additional funds of \$7100 as the cost for the Land Recording system is doubling. This will be addressed at the Special meeting on May 10, 2023, when all budgets will be reviewed.

CONTINGENCY - DEPARTMENT 59

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 40,000.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 40,000.00

No questions or comments

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - DEPARTMENT 71

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 388,436.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 385,249.00

No questions or comments

NEWSLETTER - DEPARTMENT 55

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 22,350.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 23,810.00

No questions or comments

RECREATION - DEPARTMENT 22

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 207,617.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 211,009.00

Increases to hourly wages to begin on July 1, 2023. Next year competitive wages will be an issue, especially for lifeguards. Bob Valentine suggests that the town consider charging non-resident campers appropriately.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REQUESTS 2023-2024

Total Recreation 29,500.00

Camp Coch Facilities Projects 5,000.00 for air conditioning, and door replacement

Surveillance 2,000.00 – can be reduced by \$1000.

Track Repair 1,000.00. Already have appropriated \$3000 this year, so it can be eliminated from this budget.

Todd will provide a balance of the residual funds from completed projects for the May 10, 2023, meeting to better understand the funds required for 2023-2024.

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - DEPARTMENT 61

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 72,680.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 84,592.00

Computer Support is the projected cost of having Yucatech service contract plus additional expenses for troubleshooting problems. This includes the cost for offsite back-up, archiver, and antivirus.

Repairs and Maintenance request is \$10,000.00 and as this is for the Town Hall windows, Bob Valentine informs that it belongs under Capital Expense and can be removed from this budget.

WASTE REMOVAL - DEPARTMENT 03

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 292,194.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 317,645.00

The increase is due to the MIRA Fees which can be reduced. This budget will be adjusted and reviewed.

ANIMAL CONTROL FUND BUDGET - DEPARTMENT 18

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 12,500.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 13,000.00

Increase is due to the Officer's Training and Continuing Education Cost,

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS - DEPARTMENT 32

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 2,716.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 2,748.00
No questions or comments

BOARD OF ASSESSORS - DEPARTMENT 31

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$90,458.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 92,817.00

The increase is due to Computer Support, which may be reduced as last year's expenses included the revaluation work.

BOARD OF FINANCE - DEPARTMENT 10

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 15,837.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 16,827.00

The increase is due to the increased cost of printing annual reports. Clerical Wages increase of \$15 seems low, as it is currently \$1102. This will need review.

BUILDING OFFICIAL - DEPARTMENT 05

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$78,731.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$93,702.00

The Building Official's Comp does not require a \$ 11,547.00 increase as the compensation will include building permit fees of 30%. Building Official's Comp to be set at \$57,153.00 the same as 2022/2023.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$1,553.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$1,575.00
Marketing & Research \$1000 not needed.

ELECTIONS - DEPARTMENT 14

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$24,913.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$26,421.00

This budget is based on a normal voting schedule or one day a year. The impact of the newly passed legislation for multi-day voting will not affect this budget.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS - DEPARTMENT 27

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$3,170.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 3,296.00

The budget is being spent at 35% and will be reviewed at the Fire Commission meeting.

FIRE MARSHAL - DEPARTMENT 25

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 13,786.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 15,794.00

The increase is due to the Fire Watch Payroll.

FIRE PROTECTION - DEPARTMENT 26

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$111,595.00
Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 122,395.00

No questions or comments

FISCAL OFFICE - DEPARTMENT 04

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 59,819.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 66,085.00

Todd reported his decision not to use PayChex as the quote came in with \$5900 additional to the original \$6800 quote. The town will hire a new data entry clerk/payroll clerk as one is needed to do the warrants anyway. This will change the admin wages.

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSIONS - DEPARTMENT 45

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$5,222.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$5,447.00

No questions or comments

LAND USE ENFORCEMENT - DEPARTMENT 43

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 20,388.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 21,235.00

The increase is due to the Officer's Contracted Services.

LIBRARY - DEPARTMENT 21

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 166,894.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 170,656.00

PLANNING & ZONING - DEPARTMENT 41

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 3,282.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$3,636.00

No comments or questions

RESCUE - DEPARTMENT 28

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$35,279.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 35,368.00

No comments or questions

SELECTMEN - DEPARTMENT 01

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 148,099.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 155,239.00

No comments or questions

TAX COLLECTOR - DEPARTMENT 12

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 51,172.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 54,788.00

This account may be over budgeted in wages due to less hours being used.

TOWN CLERK- DEPARTMENT 11

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 89,892.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 105,079.00

This budget needs to be revised and reviewed.

TREASURER - DEPARTMENT 13

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 9,641.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 10,965.00

No comments or questions

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY- DEPARTMENT 46

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 344.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 353.00

No comments or questions

WELFARE - DEPARTMENT 58

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$7,228.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$7,342.00

No comments or questions

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - DEPARTMENT 42

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$1,610.00

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$1,646.00

ADJOURN: Jim Korner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Scott Tillmann
The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:29p.m.



Lee M. Kennedy
Board of Finance Clerk

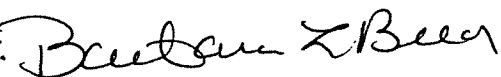
Goshen Town Clerk

Attest

April 28, 2023 @ 12:01 P.M.

Received

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Attest: 
Town Clerk